



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY PROPOSES STRICTER REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
*Proposals from Task Force Will Improve Community Security and Public Awareness*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced a series of proposals that will make neighborhoods near hazardous waste storage facilities safer and improve the ability of state and community emergency workers to effectively respond in the event of an emergency. The proposals are from the Governor's Hazardous Materials Task Force he formed after the Oct. 5 fire at the EQ storage site in Apex.

"I appreciate the work of the Task Force and their focus on finding ways to make sure hazardous waste storage and disposal facilities operate safely for the good of the public and the environment," said Easley. "They brought together the concerns of residents, local officials, emergency responders, local and state regulators and the business community and came up with common-sense solutions."

The Governor is immediately directing the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an evaluation of the location, design and operating requirements for commercial hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities and recommend changes.

He is directing the Division of Waste Management to provide inspection reports and compliance orders for hazardous waste facilities to local emergency response agencies. In addition, he is directing the division to invite local fire marshals to accompany division inspectors on hazardous waste facility inspections each year.

Along with these items, which can be implemented now, the Governor will propose legislation in the next session of the General Assembly to tighten state laws regulating the handling, storage and disposal of hazardous waste and licensing of hazardous waste sites. The legislation will:

- Require hazardous waste treatment storage and disposal facilities to provide insurance to make sure they can pay for cleanup and off-site screening for potential contamination in the event of a release of hazardous waste;
- Require all applicants for commercial hazardous waste facility permits to seek local government input on plans for response to emergencies at the proposed sites;
- Require facilities to have round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week security with either an electronic system or with trained security personnel who meet state standards;

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